Daily Herald, February 18, 2006

Lake County hospitals will receive \$6 million more in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements over the next three years, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk announced this week. Kirk helped broker an agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services so Lake County hospitals could be reimbursed at the same rate as Chicago hospitals. The deal reverses a previous decision by the federal agency to reimburse Lake County hospitals at the same rate as Kenosha County, Wis. Wisconsin has a lower wage index than Chicago, used to calculate reimbursements. Victory Memorial Hospital in Waukegan, Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, Lake Forest and Highland Park hospitals will benefit from the higher reimbursement.